

SAN FRANCISCO POLYCLINIC POST-GRADUATE EXTENSION LECTURES.

(Notice to Secretaries of County Societies: During the present year the members of the San Francisco Polyclinic staff are prepared to give the following lectures to the County Societies throughout the state. For information apply to Dr. H. D'Arcy Power.)

Medicine.

Dr. P. K. Brown:

1. "Relation of the Doctor to the Health Insurance Plan."
2. "Mental Diseases in Private Practice."
3. "Manifestations of Arterial Deterioration."

Dr. H. D'Arcy Power:

1. "Intestinal Sub-digestion."
2. "The Liver in Chronic Diseases."
3. "The Dropsies and Their Treatment."

Dr. H. Kronenberg:

1. "Intermittent Claudication of the Upper and Lower Extremities."
2. "Diagnostic Methods of the Gastro-Intestinal Tract."

Pediatrics.

Dr. S. Blum:

1. "Rhino-Pharyngitis in Infancy and Childhood."
2. "Systemic Infection in Childhood."

Surgery.

Dr. H. A. L. Ryfkogel:

1. "Treatment of Infections."
2. "Theory and Use of Bone-Grafting."
3. "The Surgical Treatment of Gastric Ulcers."

Dr. G. Barrett:

1. "Gastro Jejunal Ulcer Following Gastro-Enterostomy."
2. "Technique of Gall-Bladder Surgery."
3. "Operations for Umbilical Hernia."

Dr. S. Bunnell:

1. "Treatment of Infections."
2. "Practical Points in Accident Surgery."

Genito Urinary.

Dr. M. Krotoszyner:

1. "Upon the Diagnosis and Treatment of Early Stages of Hydronephrosis." (Lantern Slides.)
2. "Bladder Tumors: Their Early Diagnosis and Modern Treatment."
3. "Present Status of the Sero-Diagnosis and Treatment of Gonorrhea."

Gynecological Urology.

Dr. W. E. Stevens:

1. "Modern Diagnosis and Treatment of Urinary Lithiasis." (a) Kidneys and Urethra. (b) Bladder and Urethra.
2. "Functional Kidney Tests."
3. "Modern Treatment of Syphilis."

Eye.

Drs. A. S. and L. D. Green:

1. "The Treatment of Cataracts." (With Moving Picture Demonstrations.)

Ear.

Dr. C. F. Welty:

1. "Report on Some Interesting Ear Cases."
2. "A Series of Sinus Thrombosis Cases."
3. "Performance of Tonsil Operations, under Local Anaesthesia on Grown People."

Orthopedics.

Dr. J. Watkins:

1. "The Modern Treatment of Tuberculosis of the Spine."
2. "The Modern Treatment of Ununited Fractures."
3. "Operations for Defects of the Hip Joint."
4. "Operations, which have stood the test of time, can properly be employed in the Treatment of Deformities following Infantile Paralysis."

To the Editor,

California State Journal of Medicine.

The "Ambrine" Treatment.

On the second of August last year the Outlook published an account of the treatment followed in the French army, or rather, I should say, in a particular hospital dealing with army cases, in the matter of severe frost bites and deep burns. It described in terms that savored of exaggeration the wonderful results obtained by the use of a compound invented by and used under the supervision of Dr. Barthe de Sandfort at the St. Nicholas Hospital of Issy-les-Moulineaux. The article in question was later most unfortunately severely criticised by the Journal of the American Association. I say unfortunately, for the reason that the condemnation there imputed is refuted by the fact that Dr. Carrel has given, as a result of his experience, unqualified praise of the treatment, which has also been made obligatory in the surgical department of the English army service.

The basis of the method is the application of a mixture consisting of white wax, paraffin and resin applied hot to the previously cleaned and dried burned surface, the material being either brushed on or sprayed in the case of face or very deep wounds. No particulars as to the proportions were given in the article referred to, nor, as far as I know, have they been since revealed. But the idea appealed to me as eminently sensible, apart from any question of the praise given by the lay press, and I therefore proceeded to experiment, with the view of getting a workable proportion, and after trying, first, equal parts of the three ingredients, and finding the mixture too hard, I tried other arrangements, until I got a mass consisting of three and a half parts of white wax, three and a half of paraffin and one part powdered resin, the whole heated until clear, and passed through cheesecloth. This sets very hard, but melts readily in hot water, and can be applied either by a brush or by spraying through a hot vaseline spraying apparatus. We made this mixture within a few days after reading the article, and tried it out partly on cases in the City and County Hospital, and partly in my private practice.

Now, as to results in the San Francisco Hospital, I used it on a case of gangrenous extremities, the patient suffering with diabetes, there also being quite deep ulcerations of the skin. They had been quite resistant to treatment before, but completely healed in the course of a couple of weeks. Other cases treated by some of my colleagues, I believe, gave equally good results. Amongst the cases I treated in my private practice was one of the most extensive and deep bed sores, the patient suffering with arteriosclerotic dementia. These sores in the back extended through all the tissues and involved the muscles; one in the heel exposed the os calcis. They had been previously treated by all the usual methods employed in such cases, with no success. The deepest, after washing with alcohol and drying with warm air, was thoroughly painted with the mixture and the painting repeated every twenty-four hours. It is well to state here, for those who have not used the method, that the application, after setting, is completely impervious to air or moisture, and does not readily leave the skin until one of the edges is raised, when the whole

mass peels off without any adhesion whatever, causing absolutely no pain in its removal.

The progress of this case was just as remarkable as that recounted by the Outlook's correspondent in the Paris experience. Within three weeks, the surfaces were completely covered, both in the back ulcerations and in the legs. I have since used the method not only in ulcerations, but for wounds, with precisely the same results.

As an internist, an excursion on my part into the surgical field may seem perhaps out of place, and I would not normally venture to express an opinion, yet in these cases the surgical conditions grew directly out of the underlying medical factors, and seeing that the matter was in controversy, at least in the minds of some, I thought it right to give this experience, as I believe there is a great future for treatment based on these lines.

H. D'ARCY POWER.

January 22, 1916.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIETY.

Proposed Amendment to the Constitution of the Medical Society of the State of California. (See page 100 of the 1916 State Medical Directory.)

The amendment deals with the first sentence of Article VI of the Constitution, relating to officers, and omits two assistant secretaries, and adds three councilors-at-large, so that this sentence of Article VI will read as follows:

"Section 1. The officers of this Society shall be a President, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, Examiners or nominees for appointment as members of the Board of Medical Examiners, as may be required by the laws of the State of California governing the practice of medicine, and fifteen Councilors, of whom one shall be elected from each of the nine councilor districts, and six Councilors-at-Large."

The remainder of the Section and Article to remain as it now reads.

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McINTIRE PRIZE.

Last year Dr. Charles McIntire resigned the secretaryship of the American Academy of Medicine after twenty-five years of faithful service. In appreciative commemoration the American Academy of Medicine decided to raise a fund, the income of which should be expended in accordance with Dr. McIntire's suggestions. As a consequence the Academy now announces two prize offers, the prizes to be awarded at the annual meetings for 1918 and 1921, respectively.

The subject for 1918 is "The Principles Governing the Physician's Compensation in the Various Forms of Social Insurance." The members of the committee to decide the relative value of the essays awarding this prize are: Dr. John L. Heffron, Dean of the College of Medicine, Syracuse University; Dr. Reuben Peterson, Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women, University of Michigan, and Dr. John Staige Davis, Professor of

Pediatrics and Practice of Medicine, University of Virginia.

The subject for 1921 is "What Effect Has Child Labor on the Growth of the Body?" The members of the committee to award this prize are: Dr. Thomas S. Arbuthnot, Dean of the Medical School of the University of Pittsburgh; Dr. Winfield Scott Hall, Professor of Physiology, Northwestern University, and Dr. James C. Wilson, Emeritus Professor, Practice of Medicine and of Clinical Medicine, Jefferson Medical College.

The conditions of the contests are:

(1) The essays are to be typewritten and in English, and the contests are to be open to everyone.

(2) Essays must contain not less than 5000 or more than 20,000 words, exclusive of tables. They must be original and not previously published.

(3) Essays must not be signed with the true name of the writer, but are to be identified by a nom de plume or distinctive device. All essays are to reach the Secretary of the Academy on or before January 1st of the years for which the prizes are offered and are to be accompanied by a sealed envelope marked on the outside with the fictitious name or device assumed by the writer and to contain his true name inside.

(4) Each competitor must furnish four copies of his competitive essay.

(5) The envelope containing the name of the author of the winning essay will be opened by Dr. McIntire, or in his absence by the presiding officer at the annual meeting and the name of the successful contestant announced by him.

(6) The prize in 1918 for the best essay submitted according to these conditions will be \$100; that of 1921 will be \$250.

(7) In case there are several essays of especial merit, after awarding the prize to the best, special mention of the others will be made and both the prize essay and those receiving special mention are to become at once the property of the Academy, probably to be published in the Journal of Sociologic Medicine. Essays not receiving a prize or special mention will be returned to the authors on application.

(8) The American Academy of Medicine reserves the right to decline to give the prize if none of the essays are of sufficient value.

The present officers of the American Academy of Medicine are: George A. Hare, M. D., Fresno, Calif., president; J. E. Tuckerman, M. D., Cleveland, president-elect; Charles McIntire, M. D., Easton, Pa., treasurer, and Thomas Wray Grayson, M. D., 1101 Westinghouse Building, Pittsburgh, Pa., secretary.

RESIGNED.

Bailey, C. H., San Francisco.
Brune, A. E., San Francisco.
Julien, E. H., San Francisco.
Montgomery, John, San Francisco.

DEATHS.

Holmgren, Chas. J., Oakland.
Haight, N. H., Sacramento.
Anderson, Alexander, San Francisco.
Wilkes, Farrington, Oakland.
Nass, Annie T., Los Angeles.
Wheeler, Chas. M., Stockton.
Cauch, Robert, Carpinteria.
Hume, Wm. Robert, Oakland.
These are all marked in index.
Clarke, Elmer A., Los Angeles.